

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 PM-07

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UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 1424

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BTRA, AR, CU

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE MINISTER OF ECONOMY LEADS BUSINESSMEN'S
VISIT TO CUBA

1. MINISTER OF ECONOMY JOSE GELBARD INFORMED THE PRESS ON FEBRUARY 21 THAT HE WILL LEAD A GROUP OF ABOUT 250 ARGENTINE BUSINESSMEN ON A TRIP TO CUBA. THE GROUP CONSISTS ALMOST ENTIRELY OF MEMBERS OF THE CONFEDERACION GENERAL ECONOMICA (CGE), A POWERFUL BUSINESS ORGANIZATION CONSISTING MOSTLY OF SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, FROM WHICH MANY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC TEAM WERE CHOSEN. GELBARD IS ITS FORMER PRESIDENT. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO AMERICAN EXECUTIVES PLAN TO GO, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME AMERICAN COMPANIES MAY BE PLANNING TO SEND A NON-US CITIZEN EMPLOYEE.

2. THE BUSINESSMEN'S VISIT IS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE ARRIVAL IN CUBA OF THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF ARGENTINE PRODUCTS UNDER THE EXPORT CREDIT THE GOA GRANTED CUBA LAST AUGUST. WE UNDERSTAND THE SHIPMENT, CONSISTING OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, IS BEING MADE ON THE CYPRIOT VESSEL "ESTHIA". PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT
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THE GROUP WILL BE RECEIVED BY CASTRO, ALTHOUGH GELBARD

HAS NOT CONFIRMED THIS. THE FLIGHT WILL BE MADE IN
TWO AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS AIRCRAFT CHARTERED BY THE
CGE. THEY PLAN TO LEAVE ARGENTINA ON FEBRUARY 25.
HILL

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Message Attributes

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